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Environment and sustainable development

Australia, Indonesia*, Japan, Mexico, Norway and United States of America: draft resolution

International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of its resolution 52/200 of 18 December 1997 on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon,[1]

Considering that the El Niño Southern Oscillation is a natural phenomenon which appears in a recurrent way and in frequent periods and, hence, in a predictable manner,

Noting that an opposite phenomenon to the El Niño Southern Oscillation, known as La Niña, according to scientific predictions, can occur and affect several regions of the world, and that international cooperation would also be needed in order to reduce its impact,

Expressing its deepest concern about the widespread and devastating effects of the El Niño Southern Oscillation all over the world, especially during the year 1997/98, which the scientists have recognized as the year in which the El Niño Southern Oscillation has had its strongest manifestation on record,

Stressing that any credible strategy for the reduction of the natural disaster effects of future El Niño occurrences must be based on effective dialogue and cooperation between the scientific and the technological areas of the United Nations system and its operational responsibilities in the fields of disaster management, humanitarian assistance, sustainable development, technical cooperation and capacity-building,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, and China

[1] A/53/487

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1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 52/200 and endorses the recommendations and conclusions contained therein;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the cooperation provided by the United Nations system to the countries affected by the El Niño phenomenon and for the valuable cooperation given by the international community;

3. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the organization of the first Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on El Niño, to be held at Guayaquil, Ecuador, from 9 to 13 November 1998, in accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution 52/200;

4. *Decides* that the report on the outcome of that Meeting will be considered under appropriate items at the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, at the substantive session of the Economic and Social council of 1999 and at the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[2]

5. *Also decides* to consider the La Niña phenomenon in the context of the implementation of resolution 52/200;

6. *Calls* for the continued and full implementation of resolution 52/200;

7. *Welcomes* the convening, in 1999, of an intergovernmental meeting of experts on the El Niño phenomenon, to be held at Lima, which will have a comprehensive approach, comprising scientific, technical, social and political issues, and a broad participation of intergovernmental experts and policy decision makers;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999, on how the United Nations system will deal with the reduction of natural disasters after the conclusion of the International Decade for the Reduction of Natural Disasters in 1999.

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[2] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.